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# SHEKEL

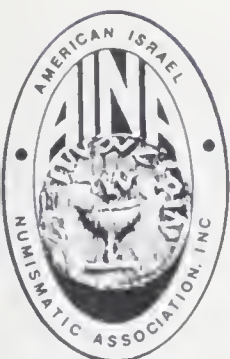


The Journal of Israel and Jewish History and Numismatics  
Volume 51 No. 3 July August September 2018

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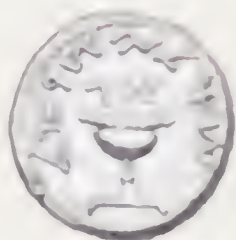


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# THE SHEKEL

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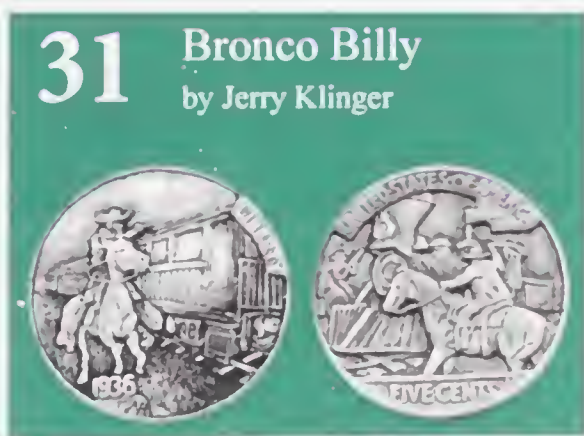
MEL WACKS, EDITOR

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You are invited to visit the new and improved AINA Website ([www.theshekel.org](http://www.theshekel.org)) and see:

Complete catalog of AINA Membership Medals, AINA Tour Medals, and AINA Commemorative Medals.

# WHAT'S NEW?



## AINA POLICE

Swedish county police clerk Carin Götblad stands alongside police car with the slang word for police, "aina". Aina is an abbreviation of the Turkish slang word "aynasiz" meaning "without mirror". The word aims at the police with the meaning that they have no shame - they do not dare to see themselves in the mirror. It

is hoped that using the slang term will show that police are more down-to-earth and will help in recruitment.

## SHALOM "COIN"

Does anyone know what this *I Shalom* "com" is? A pattern? Play money? It is made of aluminum and is about the size of the 1 agora coin-- weight 0,8 gm, 16,5 mm in diameter, 1,5 mm thick, and smooth edge.



## HALF SHEKEL BRINGS

*\$36,000*

In the April auction conducted by Robert Deutsch in Israel, a superb Year 3 Half Shekel sold for \$36,000, nearly double the estimate of \$19,000-\$20,000.



## TRUMP TEMPLE "COIN"

A Trump "Temple Coin" is a joint effort of the nascent Sanhedrin, the Mikdash (Temple) Educational Center and the United Temple Movements, expressing the hope of rebuilding the Temple. The design features a menorah and the Persian lion, along with Trump and King Cyrus.

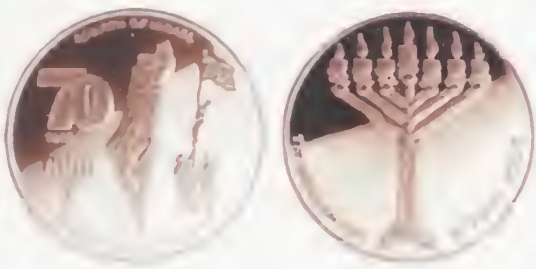


*Continued*



# ISRAEL COMMEMORATES OPENING OF U.S. EMBASSY IN JERUSALEM

The outline of the walls and famous buildings of Jerusalem in the background symbolizes the city of Jerusalem and the moving of the U.S. Embassy. A handshaking image above the flags of the two States expresses the deepening friendship. Designed by David Harel and Ruben Nutels. Maximum quantity of 500. Available from Israel Coins & Medals Corp., 50 Bar Yehuda Drive, Nesher, Israel 36660. Tel: +972-4-8212805/6. Email: medals@coins.co.il.



# SO-CALLED “COIN” IS ACTUALLY MEDAL

Ads appearing from the “Jerusalem Mint” tout “coins” commemorating Israel’s 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence. These are actually medals produced by a private mint.

# KARL MARX BICENTENNIAL

The 200th birthday of Karl Marx was celebrated by his hometown of Rheinland-Pfalz by the issuance of Zero Euro “bank-notes.” Marx had Jewish parents, but his father converted him to Protestantism when he was 6 years old. Later in life, Marx became a self-hating anti-Semite.



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### PALESTINE BANKNOTE

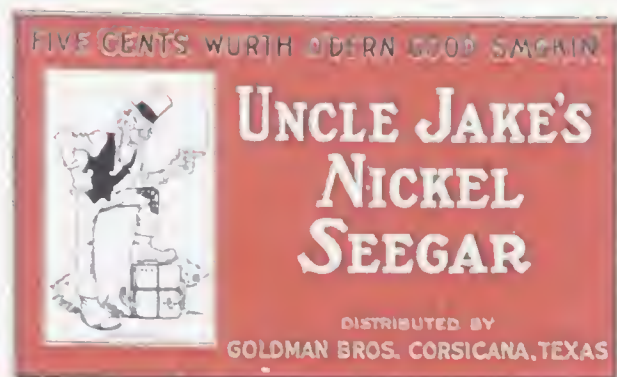
5 Palestine Pounds, 1939 #B932021; VF

Sold in our November, 2016 auction (#43) for \$2,200





# Number One Money Man



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UNCLE JAKE'S NICKEL SEEGAR

WHOLESALE - 10 (TEN) UNCLE JAKE'S  
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(LIGHT) HAIFA LODGE MEDAL NEW  
CONDITION. APPROX 30 x 40 MM.

SEMI CENTENNIAL  
(CELEBRATION) of the GRAND  
LODGE of ILLINOIS

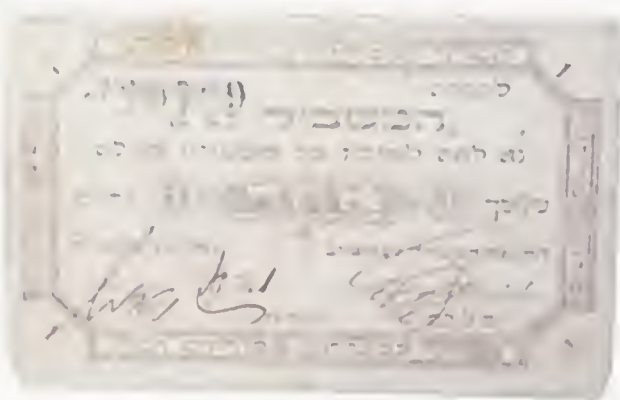
1840-1889 with ABRAHAM JONAS  
& J.C. SMITH, both GRAND  
MASTERS on a COMMEMORATIVE  
MEDAL. MEDAL MEASURES  
APPROXIMATELY 1.75 INCHES  
DIAMETER with TOP LOOP (NO  
RIBBON)

JONAS (and HIS BROTHERS) was the 1st JEW  
to SETTLE WEST of the ALLEGHIES (1819),  
HE & HIS BROTHER JOSEPH MARRIED 2  
SISTERS, DAUGHTERS of the 1st RABBI BORN  
in AMERICA (G.M. SEIXAS), HE SERVED in



the STATE LEGISLATURE of BOTH  
KENTUCKY & ILLINOIS, He was the  
1st JEWISH RESIDENT of QUINCY  
& POSTMASTER (1849-53). As a  
FRIEND of ABRAHAM LINCOLN  
(and the PERSON WHO CONFIRMED,  
with his PARTNER HENRY ASBURY,  
the CANDIDACY of LINCOLN for  
PRESIDENT), He was APPOINTED  
by the PRESIDENT for another TERM  
as POSTMASTER from 1861 UNTIL

his DEATH in 1864. FOUR of his SONS FOUGHT  
for the CONFEDERACY & 2 OTHERS were with  
the UNION. His SON CHARLES RECEIVED a  
PRESIDENTIAL RELEASE from a PRISONER of  
WAR CAMP to be with his DYING FATHER.



1923 (despite the fact that it is  
handwritten 1921) HAMASHIBIR  
(formerly part of the Worker's Movement  
Union known as Histadrut, and was the  
start of the current Solel Bonch Road  
Building group of today) ONE GRUSH  
PAYMENT TICKET 1 EQUALS a GRAM  
(in Hebrew it says גר"מ meaning 'gram', not  
Grush גרוש) of MERCHANDISE (מכלת).

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# ISRAEL'S 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY COINS



*Coin specifications: NIS1 Silver 925 Proof-Like 50mm, 14.4gm, maximum mintage 1,000; NIS2 Silver 999 Proof 38.7mm, 31.1gm, maximum mintage 2,800; NIS10 (shown) Gold 917.22K Proof 40mm, 16.96gm, maximum mintage 555.*

One side pictures the official Israel 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo with Star of David, symbol of the Jewish people, in the center. The figure "70", denoting the years of Independence of the State of Israel, blends with the Star of David. Along the base of the Star of David is the word "Israel" in Hebrew in Jewish scribe style, as it appears in the Holy Scriptures, and beneath it, the words "Heritage of Innovation" in Hebrew, which together express the character

of the State of Israel, a blend of tradition and innovative spirit. Around the border is the inscription "Israel's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary" in English, Hebrew and Arabic.

The other side, designed by Michal Hamawi, features two wavy lines, symbolize the flag of Israel. For further information visit [www.israelmint.com](http://www.israelmint.com) or write Israel Coins & Medals Corporation 50 Bar Yehuda Drive, Nesher, Israel 36660.🇮🇱



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Among its special releases in honor of the Israel 70th Anniversary celebrations, Israel Coins and Medals Corp. has released a State Medal highlighting the innovative spirit in Israel. The medal is struck with a 39mm diameter, with silver-plating, bears the official "70th Anniversary" logo in color, and has a mintage of 3,000. The reverse, designed by Ruben Nutels, carries the Israel State Emblem and artistically expresses innovation in Israel through seven moving trails, signifying the seven decades of the State of Israel, on a background of binary language, blending with a Star of David.



State Medal designed by David Harel depicting the beauty of the Land of Israel through the seven species: "Wheat and barley and vine and fig and pomegranate olive oil and honey" (Devarim 8: 8).. Struck in bronze (50 gm.), 999 fine silver (2 oz.) and .9999 fine gold (2 oz.).

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# THE ORIGINS AND THE FAR-REACHING RAMIFICATIONS OF THE JEWISH LEGION

By Dan Randolph

At one time, Jews had a fighting force and were capable of having an army. Around 525 B.C.E., there was a Jewish community on the Elephantine Island in the middle of the Nile River closer to the first Cataract in Egypt. The Hebrews there were serving as mercenaries for the Egyptian government as it existed in 525 B.C.E.

In 72/73 C.E., Titus and Silva crushed the first Jewish revolt in Judaea on behalf of the Roman Empire.

Hadrian, in 135 C.E., destroyed the Bar Kokhba revolt and changed the name of Jerusalem to Aelia Capitolina, which resulted in the Diaspora, the scattering of Jews throughout the world. This not only destroyed the Bar Kokhba revolt, but it destroyed the ability for Jews to determine their own destiny, the loss of their homeland, and led to their

becoming subservient. A strong belief developed among Jews and non-Jews that Jews could not fight or defend themselves. This idea continued for 1900 years. Jews were considered as not to belong anywhere except for the economic benefit they might generate.

One commentator has said that the most important person in Jewish history is Moses. That commentator also said the second most important person in Jewish history is Theodore Herzl. "Not since Moses stood on the slopes of Mount Nebo and prophesied the fate of the Israelites in the Promised Land, in the Book of Deuteronomy, has a single person done more to direct the course of Jewish History", than Theodore Herzl. Moses and Herzl both led Jews to Israel and neither were able to live there.



# FIRST ZIONIST CONGRESS

In 1897, Theodore Herzl, held the First Zionist Congress. (2017 was the 120<sup>th</sup> year of Zionism.) The impetus for Herzl to start the First Zionist Congress was his awakening at seeing the anti-Semitic treatment of Captain Alfred Dreyfus by the French and by the French Army.

There had been other Jewish Congresses and other Zionist events, but this was the first stated Zionist Congress and it was conducted by Zionist leadership. Women were welcomed and given the unusual right to vote. The purpose of the "Zionist" Congress was to begin having Jews unite as one people, and the Congress also wished to create a Jewish culture. During this event, the Zionists would lock arms and sing Hatikvah, while standing under a blue and white flag. This was intended to bring about the beginning collective relationship to Zion, the idea of returning to their Jewish homeland. This was the beginning of Herzl's "political Zionism", a new unifying Jewish concept.

Herzl wanted to disavow the anti-Semitic stereotype of the Jewish man as unmanly. Max Nordau, along with Herzl, wanted to embody and inspire Zionist virtues such as hard work, discipline and responsibility in the Jews of Europe. Herzl and Nordau wanted nationhood to be cemented through shared national "heroes", symbols, songs, and myths so that there would be a national culture. Herzl wanted Zionism to establish a homeland, guaranteed by public law, for the nation of Israel in the land of Israel.

An important agenda item of the Zionists was to restore Jewish pride, spirit and dignity by nurturing



*A pin with the emblem of the First Zionist Congress, 1897.  
Bronze emblem decorated with white threads surrounding it like a halo, attached to pin. The emblem shows a Star of David framing a lion, with seven surrounding stars. Size of Star of David: 1 x 1 cm.  
Length of pin: 5 cm.*

Jewish bonding and community. To this end, sports and games played a major role and a national Jewish sports movement developed. The sports included gymnastic events and physical training hoping to develop and display a new Jewish male type of strength and vigor (Hapoel, Maccabi, Hakoah, Ha-Gibor). Max Nordau, at the Second Zionist

Congress, actually called for "muscle Judaism". As a direct result of Nordau's ideas, a Jewish Gymnastic club was formed in 1898 in Berlin called the Bar Kochba Club. Both Herzl and Nordau wanted to stop the concept that Jewish people were hemmed in and held back, too weak to determine their own destiny.

## *ZION MULE CORPS – THE BEGINNING OF THE JEWISH LEGION*

In 1915, the Zion Mule Corps was the first attempt to establish a Jewish army. During the First World War in 1914-1918, Jews were found in all of the opposing armies. The official Zionist bodies in the World Zionist organizations wanted to maintain neutrality, particularly for the small Jewish community in Judaea, which was about 80,000 people. This is when Ze'ev Jabotinsky developed the idea of a Jewish Legion. Jabotinsky was a revisionist and not a socialist. Jabotinsky and the Revisionist Zionists believed that Jews must not surrender to fate, but to force Jewish lives to head in a certain direction, which meant working with the British to return Jews to Israel.

In October 1914, the Ottoman Empire entered World War I on behalf of the Central Powers, which included Austria-Hungary, Germany

and Bulgaria. David Ben-Gurion and Yitzhak Ben-Ziv wanted to establish a Jewish Legion in Jerusalem. The Ottoman Turks deported Ben-Gurion and Ben-Ziv along with 18,000 Jews, with 12,000 of these men going to British-occupied Alexandria, Egypt.

Jabotinsky was convinced that only the active Jewish participation in the liberation of Judaea would justify the Jewish claims to the country. What came about was a British approved all-volunteer "Zion Mule Corps" to assist the British Army with transportation for the Battle of Gallipoli. Joseph Trumpeldor joined with Jabotinsky in forming the Zion Mule Corps in 1915. (Trumpeldor was the 1st Jew to receive an Army Commission from the last Russian Czar and became the most decorated Jewish soldier in Russia and became the first Jew in the Russian Army to receive

*Continued*

the commission of an officer.) The British forces lost the battle, but the Zion Mule Corps walked away with honors and a requirement to disband in 1916. No one wanted a Jewish Army.



*Joseph Trumpeldor bronze plaque, Germany, c. 1920. "Joseph Trumpeldor" in Hebrew.*

The Zion Mule Corps was under the command of the Irish Protestant Lt. Col. John Henry Patterson – 650 men strong with 562 men sent to Gallipoli and with Joseph Trumpeldor second in command. Trumpeldor had lost his left arm in the Russo-Japanese War of 1910, but insisted on continuing to serve. 6 members of The Mule Corps were killed, 25 wounded and received British Military honors, one of whom was decorated with a British Distinguished Conduct Medal for gallantry in the field. This was the first time in 1900 years that an all-Jewish military unit existed.

The winning Ottoman Turkish General was Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. His victory set the stage for the creation of modern day Turkey. The losing Brit was Winston Churchill, resigning from the War Cabinet as a result.

## *THE ROYAL FUSILIERS*

Jabotinsky spent a good part of 1915 and 1916 trying unsuccessfully to win support to establish a Jewish Legion. His goal was to liberate Judaea from the Ottoman Turks for a return to the Jewish homeland. In England, Jabotinsky, Trumpeldor and Meir Grossman, who at that time was a Zionist journalist, tried to plead the Jewish Legion cause. Approximately 300 signatures of men of military age were



*Badge of the Royal Fusiliers.*



collected. At the end of 1916, 120 former Zion Mule Corps soldiers arrived in London and the tide changed. These men were reassigned to the 20th London Battalion. (Keep in mind that JNF is at this time actively buying land in Judaea and bringing in "stateless Jews" to settle and to work the land. The JNF was establishing ties for the Jewish

people to a homeland in Judaea.) Finally, London decided it would be in London's best interest to have a battalion of fusiliers made up of Jews in England to fight in Judaea.

Many seemingly unrelated events were happening worldwide, which coalesced, along with political pressure, leading to the acceptance of a Jewish military unit.

## *JEWISH LEGION*

In July 1917, the British Colonel John Henry Patterson, the former commander of the Zion Mule Corps, was ordered by the War Office to commence the organization of The Jewish Regiment. Jabotinsky was put in charge of recruitment on August 23, 1917. As the British Cabinet was preparing The Balfour Declaration, the Jewish Regiment was officially announced. On August 24, 1917, this became the 38<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers, nicknamed The First Judeans. This Regiment was also

known as "His Majesty's Fusiliers in Palestine."

The majority of the pressure for the Balfour Declaration and the Legion was due to Chaim Weizmann, ultimately the first President of Israel.

About 50% of the 38th Battalion were British born or naturalized members of the Jewish community, including many members from the Zion Mule Corps. A large number were Russian Jews and Jews from other Allied countries. On February 18, 1918, the Battalion marched



*Suspension Medal for His Majesty's Fusiliers in Palestine.*



*Men of the 38th Battalion, from the Jewish East End Celebration Society website.*

through the City of London with fixed bayonets as they embarked for British Egypt for further training. Marching with fixed bayonets was an honor given only to the best

military units. The 38th Battalion was assigned front positions some 20 miles north of Jerusalem on the hills facing the Ottoman Turkish encampment.

## *THE PALESTINE VOLUNTEERS – THE SECOND BATTALION*



*Israel: Jewish Legion 50th Anniversary commemorative silver(?) medal; not maker-marked (designed by A. Sendir), probably minted by the Shekel Medal Company; size: 33.25mm; weight: 24.4g; plain rim. Obverse: image of Ze'ev Jabotinsky in Royal Fusiliers uniform. Reverse: images of 3 emblems associated with the Jewish Battalions. Picture courtesy of [www.historama.com](http://www.historama.com).*

Earlier in 1918, there was a strong movement for a formation of a "Palestinian" Jewish Legion. There were about 60,000 Jews in that part of the country, which comprised Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Jaffa, and was occupied by the British Army. On February 15 and 16, 1918, the new Jewish farmers, who had been brought in by Jewish National Fund (JNF), had a conference, addressed by Jabotinsky, and started drafting their aims. The British opposed this

as did several influential Yishuv members--Yishuv meaning the body of Jews living in Palestine at that time. In May, 1918, authorization was given by the British to recruit Jewish Youth in Palestine for the Jewish Legion. Approximately 1,000 Jewish men, mostly Ottoman subjects, volunteered. If the volunteers were captured, they knew they would be hanged. They became known as the 40<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers.

## THE AMERICAN AND CANADIAN VOLUNTIERS - THE 39TH BATTALION

א-י-ק-ר א-ל-ע-ל-א-נ-ר דא-ר-י-א-י-ז ה-א-ב-ט-ן!



שלש וד אן דעם אידשען רעגמענט.

*Recruitment poster for the Jewish Legion featuring the "Daughter of Zion". The Yiddish text reads "Your Old New Land must have you! Join the Jewish regiment."*

In America, listings in Jewish

publications and other communication sources for recruitment to the Jewish Legion started to appear in 1917 immediately after the Balfour

Declaration was published. Most of the volunteers were either holders of first naturalization papers and not eligible for the U.S. draft, or were below the age of 21 and maintained that position by lying, if necessary, so they could join the Legion.

In the United States, the Zionist party led by Ben-Gurion and Ben-Ziv of the Zionist Organization of America stated that the Jewish Legion was one of the most important factors in the realization of the aims of political





*Uniform button*

Zionism. The first 150 men to join the Jewish Legion left New York for military training in Canada, England and Egypt, with new groups of volunteers leaving every three weeks. Approximately 2,700 men joined this group known as the 39<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers. When a train carrying a group of Jewish volunteers passed through Bangor, Maine, it was flagged down to enable the crowd lining the tracks to see and to embrace the Jewish Legionnaires. The volunteers wore the unauthorized "Magen David" (the Star of David) on their khaki uniforms with their own banner "If I Forget Thee, O Jerusalem". In addition to the Star of David, uniform buttons for the Jewish Battalions were produced.

These volunteers were assigned so much training that they missed the end of World War I. A 41<sup>st</sup> Battalion and a 42<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers were formed, but these battalions mainly held administrative positions and did not see any combat action. All

of the Jewish Battalions wore an unofficial badge that in Hebrew said "Kadimah", which in English means "Forward".

The five Jewish Battalions existed for approximately 2-1/2 years and fought in Palestine in the final conquest of Transjordan. A large number of Jewish soldiers also served in other British fighting units in Palestine.

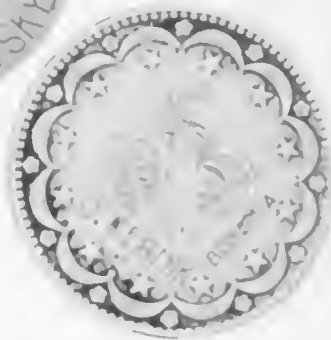


While many in the Jewish world were helping to form this Jewish military unit, a large number of Jews living in Palestine were putting themselves into dangerous situations to help free Palestine from the Ottoman rule. For example, NILI, a Jewish spy ring, was organized by 40 young men and young women to assist the British to drive out the Ottoman Empire. A large part of the British and the Jewish success was due to the Aaronsohn family, members of NILI, of Zichron Yaakov, who supplied invaluable information as to the strength and movement of Turkish forces. Sarah Aaronsohn committed suicide in 1917 at

*Continued*

the age of 27 rather than give information to the Turks. Her words: "Courage ... one dies only once." (As an aside: Sarah's family home still exists in Zichron Yaakov and a restaurant on the main street of Zichron Yaakov is named "NH" in honor of the spy ring and of Sarah.)

An inscribed silver Turkish coin, made for Private J. Commsky, also spelt Caminsky, Royal Fusiliers, a member of the Jewish Legion, who saw service in Egypt and Palestine, and while in Egypt at Tel-I-I-Kebir, acquired the coin engraved to him by



a German Prisoner of War, J. Cernik, held in the POW Camp nearby.

Offered for sale by [www.london-medals.co.uk](http://www.london-medals.co.uk) for £85.

## AFTER THE WAR

At this time, as World War I came to an end on November 11, 1918, the Jewish Battalions,



*Kadimah insignia*

numbering at that time over 5,000 men, which was equal to about 1/6 of the entire British Army of the occupied Ottoman Palestine, and was also equal to one-quarter of the British infantry soldiers and almost one-half of the British infantry regiments serving in Palestine, and had their name "officially" changed to the Judean Regiment. The previously "unofficial" symbol of the menorah with the Hebrew word Kadimah, became the "official" symbol of the newly named Judean Regiment. It was worn on the front of their hats as part of their insignia.

Jabotinsky commissioned a special medal from Boris Schatz at the Bezalel Studios in Jerusalem to be given to each man, who served

*Continued*



*Jewish Legion Service Medal*

in the Jewish Legion.

As of the 1918 end of the war, only approximately 1,500 volunteers had seen action. 34% of the volunteers were from the USA, 30% from Palestine, 25% from England, 6% from Canada, 1% from Argentina, 1% were Turkish prisoners and 3% others. Demobilization of the Jewish Legion was ordered in August 1919, partly due to a misguided belief that there would be no real danger of Arab violence.

## WHAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED

➤ Jews fighting as Jews for a Jewish Homeland. Jabotinsky was convinced that only the active Jewish participation in the Liberation of Palestine would justify the Jewish claim to the country when peace treaties would be signed. Strong support was given by Chaim Weizmann, who later became the first President of Israel. Herzl and later the Jewish Legion awakened Jews in the world to a strong purpose in a Jewish Homeland.

➤ Women were welcomed and encouraged in the Jewish Forces, even in this early struggle for a Jewish Homeland. At this time, the British prohibited women from serving in any military function. Golda Meir wanted to join the Jewish Legion, but the British refused because she was a woman. As mentioned earlier, Sarah Aaronsohn, as a female leader of NILI, the Jewish pro-British spy organization, showed that women could contribute in very dangerous positions.

Leading up to and during the 1948 War of Independence, the Hagana included women as well as men. Women would transport weapons under their blouse. Men caught with weapons were sentenced to death. Women were never searched.



*Altered 5 franc coin.*



- The British mandated Jewish Brigade in 1944, during World War II, was an outgrowth of the Jewish Legion. The Jewish Legion was the ideological beginning of the present-day Israel Defense Forces (IDF). The Hagana, Palmach, Irgun and Lechi were established in the 1930s.
- A new national Jewish community feeling of optimism and of hope developed. An example of this new-found hope is this altered coin made from a 5 franc coin by a member of the 38th Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers showing his unquestioned pride being in a Jewish Army.
- Sir Herbert Samuel, who was Jewish, was appointed as the British High Commissioner of

Palestine and regarded as nothing short of a political miracle. (As an aside: The main street in Tel Aviv running parallel to the Mediterranean Sea is still named for Herbert Samuel.)

- The Jewish community in Palestine believed there would be ushered in an era of justice, equity and wide open doors.
- Jewish military medals by Jews and for Jews were minted for the first time in 2000 years.
- The unrelenting quest for a Jewish homeland "Against all odds". If Jews want a homeland, they will have to fight for it with an army. The stereotype among Jews and non-Jews that Jews could not fight was dispelled after 1900 years.

Many thanks to the American Jewish Archives. 🕊



*Medal presented to Jewish Legion members during 50th reunion celebration in 1968*



*First Jewish Military Medal*

# YIGAL ARKIN WINS 2018 SHEKEL PRIZE FOR “MONEY TIME, 70 YEARS OF CURRENCY IN ISRAEL”



*Photo of Yigal Arkin by Howard Berlin.*

The winner of the 2018 Shekel Prize for the best work published in 2017 on the subject of Judaean, Jewish or Holy Land numismatics is Yigal Arkin, for his book “Money Time, 70 Years of Currency in Israel.” The other nominees were “Israel Numismatic Research” published by the Israel Numismatic Society, “The Coinage of the First Jewish Revolt against Rome” by Robert Deutsch, and Interpreting Ancient Jewish coin Symbols by

Dr. Gary Fine. The judges were Mel Wacks (chair), David Hendin, Ira Rezak, Allen Berman and Simcha Kuritzky.

The publisher of “Money Time” has offered the prize-winning book to AINA members at the special price of \$40 including shipping anywhere in the U.S. To order, contact Isranumis Coins & Paper Money Ltd. at [isranumis@yahoo.com](mailto:isranumis@yahoo.com) or call 972-537-239558.

*Continued*

*Continued*

Money Time tells the story of the banknotes and coins of the State of Israel over its 70 years, from the day of the declaration of the establishment of the state on May 14, 1948, until today.

The book covers these topics:

- ❖ The banknotes and coins of the British Mandate period in Palestine
- ❖ The banknotes and coins of the State of Israel
- ❖ The banknotes and coins issued by the Bank of Israel

These topics are presented with concise explanations and little-known facts that will expand the knowledge of the history of Israeli currency, from varied information about the different series, to the design of the banknotes and coins. The text is accompanied by many illustrations relating to the personalities, sites, and subjects commemorated on Israeli and pre-state currency.

**Yigal Arkin** is a collector of banknotes, and conducts numismatic research on the history of the banknotes of Israel and the world. He is a member of the *Association of Banknotes and Coin Collectors in Israel* and author of *Banknotes and Coins of Israel, 1927-1998*, *Take notes-People on Banknotes of Israel*, *The Banknotes and Coins in Israel, 1927-2006* (Hebrew and English), *Monumental Money* (English), *Majestic Money* (English) and *The Third Side of Cuban Paper Money* (English and Spanish).

His articles have been published in *Et-Mol*, a bi-weekly magazine published by Yad Ben-Zvi, in the *Mandate Articles* (Maamarei Mandat) Series, and in the *Association of Banknote and Coin Collectors in Israel* newsletter.

Here are a couple of sample pages from Money Time:📖





## FIVE ISRAELI LIROT

### Front:

Portrait of Albert Einstein, the denomination and  
"Bank of Israel" in Hebrew

### Back:

Atomic reactor at Nahal Sorek, "Bank of Israel"  
in Hebrew, English, and Arabic

Size: 150 x 75 mm

Dominant colour: Green

Watermark: Profile of Albert Einstein

Security thread: On the left

Colour of numbering: Black, red (March 1974)

Signatures: Governor of the Bank, David Horowitz,  
Chairman of the Advisory Council, Yehudah Chorin  
Design: Masino Bessi, Italy, and Sam Hertz, Holland

Year: 1968.

Date of issue: January 13, 1972

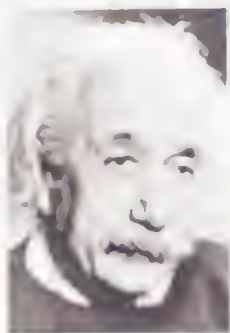
In circulation until: 1976

Ceased to be legal tender: March 31, 1984



The Atomic Energy Research Establishment in Dimona, Israel

## ALBERT EINSTEIN



1879-1955

Albert Einstein is considered to be one of the greatest scientists of all time.

He was born in Ulm, in Württemberg, Germany. The family moved to Munich when he was six weeks old, later to Italy, and then to Switzerland. In 1914 he was appointed Director of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute of Physics and Professor at the University of Berlin.

Between 1905 and 1916 he published papers on the theory of relativity. In 1921 he received the Nobel Prize for Physics for his research on the "Quantum Theory". In 1923 he visited Palestine, and worked toward the establishment of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

With the rise of Nazism in Germany in 1933, he immigrated to the USA.

In August 1939, Einstein signed a letter in which he urged the President of the United States, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, to support atomic research in light of information that Nazi Germany was developing an atomic bomb. For that reason, the atomic research reactor was selected to appear on the back of the banknote although Einstein himself did not work in the field of atomic energy. Following the death of the first President of the State of Israel, Dr. Chaim Weizmann, Albert Einstein was offered the Presidency, but he declined the honour.

## THE SOREQ NUCLEAR RESEARCH CENTER

One of the two nuclear research institutes in Israel, the centre carries out research and development for civilian purposes.

The centre was established in 1958, near the city of Yavne, by the Atomic Energy Commission, to promote the construction of a technological infrastructure for the use of nuclear methods in industries in Israel's. The centre was built with a donation under the "Atom for Peace" program by the United States during President Dwight David Eisenhower's tenure.

The centre also includes proton accelerators and research and development laboratories. The Centre is renowned in the fields of electro-optics and devices for detecting suspicious objects.

# COULD AN ISRAELI COIN SYMBOL BE A FAKE?

"An exceptionally interesting and beautiful Hebrew seal has recently appeared," wrote Nahman Avigad, an Israeli expert on ancient Hebrew inscriptions, in a January 1979 article for *Israel Exploration Journal*. The opening line came with a footnote: "The seal is in the collection of Dr. R. Hecht of Haifa, to whom I am much indebted for permission to publish it. It is said to have been found in Jerusalem, but its exact provenance is uncertain, as is true of all seals which were not found in controlled excavations."

The seal features an exquisite drawing of a twelve-stringed lyre, carved into the stone. Underneath

The Maadana was a particularly rare find, since while many Hebrew seals are inscribed with the names of princes or royal male subjects, very few feature names of women. The Maadana is the only ancient seal attributed to female royalty. The seal's lyre motif was believed to represent the lyre of strummed by King David. Reuben Hecht, who was an avid collector of biblical antiquities, bought the seal on the Jerusalem antiquities market for 500,000 Israeli liras, the equivalent of about \$96,000 today, and in 1980 he donated it to the Israel Museum.

In 1984, the Bank of Israel, seeking to mitigate the economic difficulties due to hyperinflation, decided to chop off zeros from the value of the shekel and issue a new series of coins--the New Israeli Shekel. A committee of experts in fields including archaeology, numismatics, art, and biblical



*The seal of Maadana (left), and its impression (right).*

the lyre, there is a two-line inscription in ancient Hebrew: "Belonging to Maadana, daughter of the king."





studies was convened to select the design for the new money. In the fall of that year, the committee selected Maadana's lyre to adorn the largest of the new coin denominations, the golden-hued half shekel.

Israel has always modeled its trade coins on ancient Jewish coins and artifacts. The first coin it minted in 1949, a 25 mil piece, included an image of a cluster of grapes that adorned a coin struck during a second-century C.E. Jewish revolt against the Romans led by Simon Bar Kochba. The ten-agorot coin currently in circulation depicts the seven-branched menorah found on a coin struck about 2,000 years ago during the reign of Antigonus Mattathias, the last king of the Jewish Hasmonean dynasty, which ruled the Holy Land for close to a century. The two-shekel coin used today bears a pomegranate flanked by cornucopias, an image that decorated bronze coins during the reign of John Hyrcanus I.

But in July of 1993, Israel's national museum removed the Seal of Maadana from display – because of allegations that it was a fake!

Avigad found basic similarities between the lyre on the seal and lyres depicted on Jewish coins of the second century C.E. and a sixth century C.E. Gaza synagogue mosaic of King David (pictured). But he also found differences: "The elegantly curved arms, and

especially the unusual shape of the sound box, partly rounded and partly carinated [a shape in pottery, glassware and artistic design usually applied to amphorae or vases. The shape is defined



*Israeli stamp featuring David playing harp, as depicted in Gaza Synagogue mosaic, 6th Century C.E.*

by the joining of a rounded base to the sides of an inward sloping vessel] and decorated with a rosette. None of the known parallels has a decorated sound box. Does this rosette have any symbolic meaning? We do not know."

Avigad dated the seal's inscription by examining the style of the lettering. Based on the seal's emblem, he concluded that Princess Maadana was "an ardent lyre player." The detailed sketch of the



lyre, he said, provided the closest glimpse of what the Bible calls the *kinnor*—the lyre that was played in the temple, and the lyre of King



*Lyre and kinnor on coins of Bar Kochba  
(132-135 CE).*

David. "Our lyre may be regarded as the first true Hebrew rendering of this musical instrument," he wrote.

As the Bank of Israel was preparing to unveil its new coin designs, a musicologist at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem named Bathja Bayer had a conversation with Rachel Barkay, an expert in ancient coins at the Bank who was also writing the official literature about the artifacts chosen to adorn the new money. Bayer was a specialist in the archaeology of music and had devoted much of her studies to biblical lyres. She said that she had information about the Maadana. It turned out she had some startling news: the princess, the lyre, the entire seal, Bayer said, was a forgery.

The Maadana lyre could never have existed in any ancient culture, she argued. Its asymmetrical sound box was unlike any other known ancient lyres, and with the crossbar resting on the top of outcurving arms, the instrument would collapse the first time it was tuned. The twelve strings tightly squeezed together in the tiny lyre corresponded to a written description of the

twelve-stringed lyre of the temple by the writer Josephus Flavius. But Josephus's account was historically doubtful: he lived more than 700 years after the period ascribed to the Maadana, leading Bayer to suggest the seal may have been designed to fit Josephus's description.

Furthermore, Bayer argued, it was unlikely a woman of royalty in seventh-century B.C.E. Jerusalem would wish to publicly associate with a lyre. In those days, she said, a female musician would have been considered a prostitute.

Bayer wrote to stop the minting of a coin bearing the Maadana's lyre with the Israeli government's stamp of approval. But it was too late. The coins were already being minted and stockpiled. A week later, on September 4, 1985, hundreds of thousands of Maadana lyres found their way into coin purses and cash registers throughout the country. They remain legal tender in Israel to this day.

Bayer phoned Avigad after reading his article to ask for a meeting to discuss her concerns. He declined, saying "I have determined that the seal is authentic; a musicologist's opinion cannot change this; and there is no need for a meeting."

But word had gotten out, and the list of scholars questioning the seal was continuing to grow. Shortly after a newspaper piece was published, the Seal of Maadana was removed from display at the Israel Museum.

Israeli antiquities dealer Robert Deutsch has no uncertainties about the Maadana. "Of course it's forged," he said. Deutsch had published some 1,200 seals and bullae, many of them in Shlomo Moussaieff's collection, and used to teach courses in paleography at the University of Haifa. "In this seal, they made all the mistakes possible," Deutsch has said, noting anachronisms in the shapes and stance of the ancient Hebrew letters in the inscription.

A representative of the Bank of Israel has said that "There is no proof that the 'Maadana, Daughter of the King' seal is not authentic. And even if it isn't, it bears no importance in terms of the coin itself, many years after it was issued. The public can rest assured that the coin is legal tender in every way, and the Bank of Israel has no intention of changing

or replacing the coin, except during a complete replacement of the coin series if and when this takes place in the coming years."

In June of 2015, a curator from the Hecht Museum in Haifa, which displays many ancient seals, coins, and relics that the late Reuben Hecht had purchased, came to the Israel Museum to collect the Seal of Maadana. Representatives from the Hecht were upset it had been taken off display and maintained that there was no proof that it was a forgery. They wanted it to be displayed in Israel again. Following negotiations, the Israel Museum agreed to give the Maadana to the Hecht on long-term loan, on condition that the display label includes a disclaimer stating that its authenticity was the subject of debate. The seal is now on display at the Hecht Museum.☺

*Bibliography: The Trouble With the Maadana, Could an Israeli national symbol be a fake? by Daniel Estrin, March 16, 2016, [www.newrepublic.com](http://www.newrepublic.com).*



*The Reuben Hecht Museum at Haifa University.*



# BRONCO BILLY ANDERSON - (MAX HENRY ARONSON)

The first Cowboy Hero of the Silver Screen

by Jerry Klinger, President of the Jewish American Society for  
Historic Preservation



Max Aronson was born March 21, 1880 at 813 Center Street, in Little Rock, Arkansas. He was known as Max, sometimes, Gilbert and not so often Henry, for a little more than twenty years of his life. Until he died in 1971, at 91, he was Bronco Billy Anderson, the first Cowboy Hero of the Silent Movie Silver Screen. Three months before Bronco Billy, that is Max, was born, Douglas MacArthur was born, Jan 26, 1880, down the street in the Tower Building of the Little Rock Arsenal.

Most folks might say that Douglas was the mom famous of the two. I'm

not sure who had the greater impact on the world?

Little Rock got its name in 1722 from the French explorer Jean - Baptiste Bernad del la Harpe. He landed on the south bank of the Arkansas River; saw a formation that looked like a bunch of little rocks. He set up a trading post, named the site *la Petite Roche* - Little Rock, and opened for business. Once the local Indians were asked to move, not very nicely, Little Rock grew rapidly. By the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, agriculture, cotton, and slavery kept things moving along very well. What could go wrong?

Little Rock business was so good; a good law firm was needed. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century Robert Crittenden and his partner, Chester Ashley, opened a practice of law. Their firm today is the oldest legal practice west of the Mississippi River. Crittenden and Ashley are gone, the practice has been renamed the Rose law Firm. Bill and Hillary Clinton had quite a relationship with the Rose Law firm in recent years.

*Continued*

The Civil War was not kind to little Rock or Arkansas, depending upon your point of view. Slavery was abolished and the Ku Klux Klan found a life. Race relations became so uneasy that in 1927 massive riots of Whites against Blacks claimed the news headlines. In 1957, the Civil Rights struggle for equal education approached Civil War levels as Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus called out the National Guard to keep Black children from integrating Little Rock's Central High School.

The debate over admitting Black Children to Central High ended quickly. President Eisenhower called out the U.S. Army to explain why the Supreme Court decision in favor of integrated educational opportunity was not to be ignored. Faubus got the message.

Two years ago, that was all in the distant past when I received an unlikely email from Mahendra Prasad about Max Henry Aronson.

"Hi, I am the founder and admin of The Silent Film Group on Facebook, which has over 18,000 members.

One of my hobbies is finding unmarked historical sites. Max Aronson, more famously known as Broncho Billy Anderson, is commonly recognized as the first cowboy movie star...He is the also an important producer in films history, as co-owner of Essanay Studios, which produced about a dozen of Charlie Chaplin's early

films. Additionally, he was the first producer to put Laurel and Hardy together in the same film. He won an honorary Oscar in 1958 for his contributions to the development of motion picture as entertainment.

Max Aronson was born in Little Rock, Arkansas. I'm pretty sure we now know where his birthplace was located.

As a silent film buff, I would love to have a historical marker erected at his birthplace. He was a pioneer of the western film genre, and he boldly defied negative stereotypes of Jews. I have talked with people involved with the annual Broncho Billy Film Festival and the Essanay Silent Film Museum and the Little Rock Film Festival, and they were both pretty excited by the idea."

A first generation Hindu American had contacted me, a first generation Jewish American. Mahendra wanted to tell the story of another first generation Jewish American who created and became the first international Cowboy Super Hero of the Silver Screen.

Aronson was born and grew up in the Deep South where Jews were not supposed to be. And...he couldn't ride a horse or shoot a gun! Oye!

Until Mahendra had written to me, I had never heard of Bronco Billy Anderson.

Like most kids growing up in the early days of T.V. Westerns, nurtured on Rawhide, Gun Smoke, Bonanza, the Rifleman, Paladin,

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Have Gun Will Travel, Daniel Boone, Riverboat, Maverick, Wagon Train and the Lone Ranger, the West carried an allure, a mystique of adventure, danger and Purity. It was a media created delusion of higher morality that began with the serialized easily recognized good, but not always squeaky clean good, that Bronco Billy brought to his 140 Western silent movies. Millions viewed his movies.

For the first time, before one's real eyes, the Dime novels of the West came to life and Bronco Billy was the good-looking, hard riding, and straight-shooting American man of the West.

As a card holding member of the Roy Rogers and Dale Evan's Rider's I had memorized and tried to live by, not always successful, the code of conduct rules. I was like hundreds of thousands of young boys around the world dreaming of being cowboys and girls dreamed of being cowgirls. Bronco Billy Projected the same values and they rang like true beacons. At least we believed so.

Roger's Riders had to:

1. Be neat and clean.
2. Be courteous and polite.
3. Always obey your parents.
4. Protect the weak and help them.
5. Be brave but never take chances.
6. Study hard and learn all you can.
7. Be kind to animals and take care of them.

8. Eat all your food and never waste any.

9. Love God and go to Sunday school regularly.

10. Always respect our flag and our country.

Roy Rogers and Dale Evans are politically incorrect today. Trigger is stuffed and God knows what happened to their German shepherd - Bullet - a big incorrect P.C. *shando* of a name. Bullet did bring down a lot of bad guys in the episodes.

It took quite a bit of doing. Mahendra's dream was realized. The Jewish American Society for Historic Preservation provided the funding. And a historical marker honoring the life and contribution of max Henry Aronson was dedicated on Max's 138<sup>th</sup> birthday in Little Rock. David Keene, of the Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum, Mahendra Prasad, myself and a representative from first United Methodist Church untied the bedsheet corners, yanked, and revealed Max's Marker.





The marker reads:

**Max Henry Aronson - The First  
Cowboy-Western Movie Star  
March 21, 1880 - January 20, 1971**

Max Aronson was born at 713 Center Street, (a house formerly located across the street), on March 21, 1880, to Esther and Harry Aronson, a Jewish dry goods salesman. As a child, Max Aronson relocated to St. Louis, before moving to the Roth-Rosentweig-Lambert House in Pine Bluff, Arkansas in early 1900. Aronson appeared in the first super hit Cowboy-Western, the Great Train Robbery (1903) Co-

A film festival was conducted by David Keene in association with the Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum and the Jewish American Society for Historic Preservation. A lot of good folks, especially Jim Pfeiffer of Little Rock, made that possible. *The Great Train Robbery* was the first Cowboy movie! Aronson had four roles in the movie and fittingly was the opening movie of the evening. Charlie Chaplin's the Tramp was shown. *The Tramp* was made at Essanay. And the *Lucky Duck* played. Aronson put together, for the first time ever, the great comedy team of Laurel and Hardy at Essanay. It was a marvelous evening into the past, the present and the future of the shapers of American cinematography and American popular culture.

15 years after Bronco Billy first rode the purple sage of New Jersey,

founding the Essanay Film Company with George Spoor in 1907, Aronson directed, produced, and acted in 140 Westerns for Essanay as Broncho Billy Anderson", which garnered him worldwide acclaim. Aronson signed Charlie Chaplin to Essanay, where he made 14 comedies, including *The Tramp* (1915). Aronson was the producer for the great comedians Laurel and Hardy's first film together, *The Lucky Dog* (1921). The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences awarded Aronson an "Oscar" in 1958 for his contributions to cinema.

later relocated to California. Bronco Billy was no more. Bad luck, bad economic decisions, and Hollywood high styled living combined to take Essanay down. Newer more important stars would grace the silver screen over the years, such as Tom Mix and singing cowboys like Gene Autry. Bronco Billy's fame and fortune, as most in Hollywood know, rose, and simple flitted away, then vanished. when his career ended, he managed an apartment house for a living. His marriage was over, even if he did compromise with a Christmas tree at Xmas.

Nearer his last years, he was "rediscovered", given two lines in a Clint Eastwood movie, and a deserved Oscar for fundamental contributions to the development of film. His two lines in the Eastwood film earned him a bed in the Motion

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*Continued*

Picture home for impoverished actors. He died quietly, peaceful, and was cremated.

Aronson never made much of his Jewish background. His parents had been observant Jews. Their parents were Rabbis in the Old Count. One of his sisters, along with Rachel Franks from the Northwest, tried to break the barrier and become early female Rabbis. Aronson's

sister, Lena, enrolled at the Hebrew Union College to study Judaism and Rabbis. They never let her become a Rabbi. The first female Rabbi would be Sally Priesand, 1972.

Thank you Mahendra for sending that email those years back about Bronco Billy Anderson, the first Cowboy Hero of the Silver Screen.👍



*Bronco Billy Hobo Nickels, carved from "Buffalo" Nickels by Narimantas Palsts.*



*Bronco Bill had four roles in the first Cowboy movie—The Great Train Robbery.*



# GENESIS MEDALLIC PHOTO ESSAY

Based on article by Mel Waeks and Dr. Emanuel Rubin  
Originally published in Fall 1974 Shekel



*In the beginning God created the heavens  
and the earth (Gen 1:1)  
Arthur Wipf, Society of Medalists, 1922*



*And the earth was without form, and void,  
and darkness was upon the face of the deep,  
and the Spirit of God moved upon the face  
of the waters. And God said: Let there be  
light (Gen 1:2-3).  
Philotechnic Institute in Camden,  
c. second half of 19th century*



*And God said: Let the water under the  
sky be gathered to one place, and let dry  
ground appear. And it was so. (Gen 1:9)  
Brian Watkins, Maccabee Mint, 1972*



*He made the stars also. And God set them  
in the firmament of the heaven to give light  
upon the earth. (Gen 1:16, 17)  
Anthony de Francisci, Society of  
Medalists, 1935.*

*Continued*





*And God created great whales and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind. (Gen. 1:21)*

*Harvey Weiss, Society of Medalists, 1976.*



*And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and his kind; and it was so. (Gen. 1:24)*

*Anna Hyatt Huntington, Society of Medalists, 1943.*



*And God said, Let us make man in our image after our likeness. (Gen. 1:26)*

*Adolph Alexander Weinman, Society of Medalists, 1949.*



*And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.*

*Joseph Bass, Israel State Medal, 1963.*



*And God saw everything that he had made, and behold it was good. (Gen. 1:31)  
Albert Weiss, *Science of Medicine*, 1921*



*Fragment of a Dead Sea Scroll containing the beginning of Genesis*

# MEDALS COMMEMORATING JESUS' CIRCUMCISION



*Christ's Circumcision, by German medalist Sebastian Dadler (1586–1657).*



*The Circumcision of Christ, Bohemia, 16th Century.*



*The Circumcision of Christ, Mid 16th Century. Bronze, 47mm. From the Sigmund Morgenroth Collection of Renaissance Medals and Plaques, Art, Design, & Architecture Museum, UC Santa Barbara.*

*Continued*



Jesus was circumcised eight days after his birth (traditionally January 1) according to Luke 2:21:

“And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called Jesus, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb”

This is in keeping with the Jewish law which holds that males should be circumcised eight days after birth

during a Brit milah ceremony, at which they are also given their name. The circumcision of Christ became a very common subject in Christian art from the 10<sup>th</sup> century onwards, one of numerous events in the *Life of Christ* to be frequently depicted by artists. It was initially seen only as a scene in larger cycles, but by the Renaissance might be treated as an individual subject for a painting, or form the main subject in an altarpiece.



*The Circumcision of Christ by Albrecht Dürer (1497) (c.1528).*

The event is celebrated as the Feast of the Circumcision in the Eastern Orthodox Church on January 1 in whichever calendar is used, and is also celebrated on the same day by many Anglicans. It is celebrated by Roman Catholics as the Feast of

the Holy Name of Jesus, in recent years on January 3 as an Optional Memorial, though it was for long celebrated on January 1, as some other churches still do. A number of relics claiming to be the Holy Prepuce, the foreskin of Jesus, have surfaced.

Most of the Holy Prepuces were lost or destroyed during the Reformation and the French Revolution. The Prepuce of Calcata is noteworthy, as the reliquary containing the Holy Foreskin was paraded through the streets of this Italian village as recently as 1983 on the Feast of the Circumcision, which was formerly marked by the Roman Catholic Church around the world on January 1 each year, and is now renamed as the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus. The practice ended, however, when thieves stole the jewel-encrusted case, contents and all. Following this theft, it is unclear whether any purported Holy Prepuces still exist.☐

# JEWISH CIRCUMCISION MEDAL

By Alex Ben-Arieh



*Germany: Jewish  
circumcision ("Brit Mila")  
silver medal, 1837-38,  
by Aaron Kohn, size:  
41mm, weight: 23.4g.  
Photo courtesy of [www.historama.com](http://www.historama.com)*

The obverse features 7 lines of Hebrew prayer during the circumcision: "Our Lord and Lord of our forefathers sustain this child [name] for his father and mother" and "Happy will be the father by the progeny of his loins and rejoiced will be the mother by the fruit of her belly. As is written"; Kohn's name in exergue. On the reverse are 4 lines in Hebrew surrounded by a legend excerpted from the ceremony

prayers, center: "Happy will be your father and your mother and rejoiceful your birth", around the circumference: "Just as you entered into a covenant so shall you partake of the Torah and the Khupa and of good deeds"; Hebrew date "5698" [1837-38] in exergue. Kohn was a prominent German Jewish medalist, working exclusively on Jewish themes, using Hebrew. Ⓜ



*Rosh HaShana" (Jewish  
New Year) "Tashlich"  
silver medal, by Aaron  
Kohn, 21.5mm, 3.05gm  
Obverse bears name of  
the Jewish New Year's  
prayer (in Hebrew) at top,  
"Tashlich", continuing on  
the reverse, with Hebrew  
date 5577 [1816-1817]  
at top and Kohn's name  
in Latin letters below the  
prayer.*

# CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL AWARDED TO CIA'S PREDECESSOR, OSS (OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES)



Source: www.cia.gov

The United States Mint sculpted and manufactured the Office of Strategic Services Congressional Gold Medal. Its obverse features the inscription "OSS" revealing three figures—a woman, a paratrooper, and a man in a suit—that represent the broad range of work undertaken by the OSS. Each figure is rendered as a shape without details, hinting at the way OSS agents sought to operate anonymously. The diversity in the OSS is also reflected by the figures, conveying that OSS members were men and women, civilian and military. The tedora wearing figure on the right could represent a spy like Moe Berg (see next article). The design also features the dates "1942-1945," the years during which the OSS operated. United States Mint Artist, Infusion Program (AIP) artist Emily Damstra created the design, which United States Mint Sculptor-Engraver Renata Gordon sculpted. The medal's reverse, also designed by Damstra, features the OSS Spearhead inscribed with code words related to important OSS missions and agents. United States Mint Sculptor-Engraver Joseph Menna sculpted the design.



On March 21, 2018, the US Congress bestowed its highest civilian honor upon the Office of Strategic Services (OSS). The men and women who comprised America's first spy agency were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, in recognition of their superior service and major contributions during World War II. These women and men - who performed some of the bravest acts of the war – had never before been collectively recognized for their heroic and pioneering service.

At its peak in late 1944, OSS employed almost 13,000 individuals, a third of who were women. Today fewer than 100 members of this great organization are still alive. Twenty of them were able to attend the formal presentation ceremony at the US Capitol's Emancipation Hall.

"The men and women who served our country in the OSS are among the most deserving of the Congressional Gold Medal," remarked House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Ranking Member Adam Schiff when the bill was passed by the House of Representatives in November 2016. "The OSS, members of our 'Greatest Generation,' helped vanquish some of the most malevolent enemies that our country, and indeed the world, has ever faced. We owe them a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid"

The OSS Congressional Gold Medal Act states that the OSS was America's first effort to implement a system of strategic intelligence

during World War II and provided the basis for the modern-day American intelligence and special operations communities. Its founder, General William "Wild Bill" Donovan is the only person in American history to receive our Nation's four highest decorations, including the Medal of Honor.

The OSS organized, trained, supplied, and fought with resistance organizations throughout Europe and Asia that played an important role in America's victory during World War II. The OSS invented and employed new technology through its Research and Development Branch, inventing new weapons and revolutionary communications equipment. Its X-2 branch pioneered counterintelligence with the British and established the modern counterintelligence community. The network of contacts built by the OSS with foreign intelligence services led to enduring Cold War alliances. OSS "Mercy Missions" at the end of World War II saved the lives of thousands of Allied prisoners of war.

The OSS Operational Groups and Jedburghs were forerunners to US Army Special Forces. The 801<sup>st</sup>/492<sup>nd</sup> Bombardment Group were progenitors to the Air Force Special Operations Command. The Marines who served in the OSS were predecessors to the Marine Special Operations Command. US Coast Guard personnel were recruited for the Maritime Unit and its Operational Simmer Group. Ultimately, the OSS spawned the Central Intelligence Agency.☐

# “MOE” BERG: SPORTSMAN, SCHOLAR, SPY



*Photo courtesy of the Jewish-American Hall of Fame*

Morris “Moe” Berg, a professional baseball player who also served his country as an intelligence officer, lived a life many can only dream of. A true Renaissance man, Berg graduated from Princeton University, passed the New York State bar exam and learned eight languages.

After graduating from college in 1923, Moe played 15 seasons of major-league baseball as a shortstop, catcher and coach. Pictured are his cards as coach of the Boston Red Sox in 1940 and as catcher for the Washington Senators (from 1932 - 34).

Berg’s entrance into the field of intelligence began when he, Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig and other

baseball greats formed an all-star team and traveled to Japan in the mid-1930s for exhibition games.

Proficient in Japanese, Berg talked his way into one of the tallest buildings in Tokyo. He climbed to the rooftop alone and used a movie camera to film the capital city’s shipyards. Reportedly, the US used Berg’s footage to plan bombing raids over Tokyo in World War II.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, Berg initially joined the White House’s new Office of Inter-American Affairs but left for the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in 1943. He became a paramilitary officer and carried out various intelligence operations in

*Continued*

Europe, including parachuting into Yugoslavia to evaluate resistance groups there.

By 1945 Berg had been tasked to determine whether Nazi Germany was close to having a nuclear weapon. Using his language skills and charm, he managed to locate and chat with Werner Heisenberg, a top physicist in the Third Reich. Berg accurately determined that the answer was “no.”

Berg stayed with the OSS until it dissolved in 1945. Afterward, he served on the staff of NATO’s

Advisory Group for Aeronautical Research and Development.

Before his death in 1972, Berg said, “Maybe I’m not in the Cooperstown Baseball Hall of Fame like so many of my baseball buddies, but I’m happy I had the chance to play pro ball and am especially proud of my contributions to my country. Perhaps I could not hit like Babe Ruth, but I spoke more languages than he did.”☞

Source: [www.cia.gov](http://www.cia.gov)



*1933 Goudey baseball card of Berg while with the Washington Senators.*



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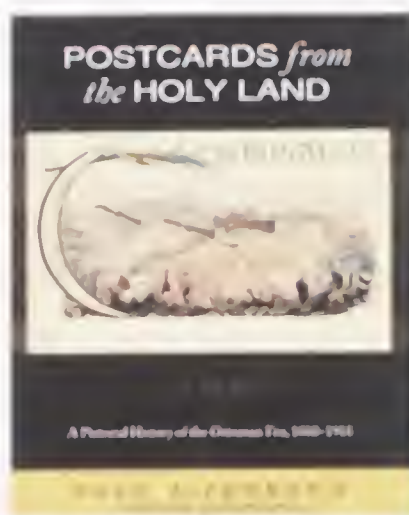
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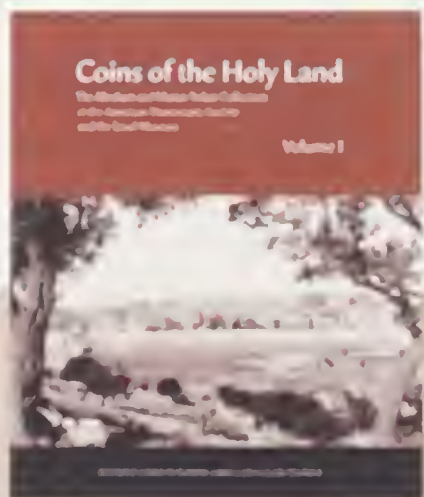
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The journal, *The Israel Philatelist*, is published 6 times a year.



### Coins of the Holy Land:

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Vol. 1: 344 pp., Vol. 2: 244 pp., 238 plates  
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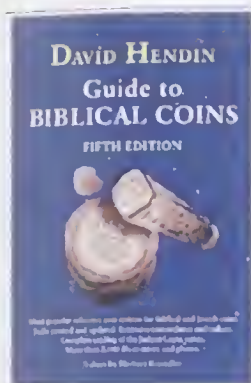
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The book was written by Yaakov Meshorer with Gabriela Bijovsky and Wolfgang Fischer-Bossert, and edited by David Hendin and Andrew Meadows.

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The Cardo was the main street, the heart of the city and trade center which ran from north to south in Roman cities.

*Acha Capitolina*, the Roman City built by Emperor Hadrian on the ruins of Jerusalem following the Bar Cochba Revolt (132-135 CE), had a Cardo. Running from Damascus Gate in the north of the

city, southwards, this Cardo was extended further southwards to Zion Gate by the Emperor Justinus in the 6th century Byzantine period.

The Cardo had an open roadway in the center for carriages and animals. For pedestrians, there were roofed sidewalks supported by pillars crowned with impressive Byzantine-style Corinthian capitals.



*The mosaic map of Jerusalem discovered on a sixth-century Byzantine church floor in Madaba, Jordan, shows the original route of the Cardo.*



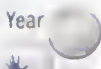
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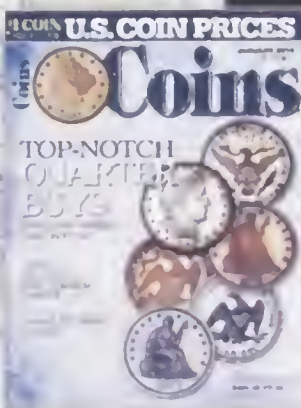
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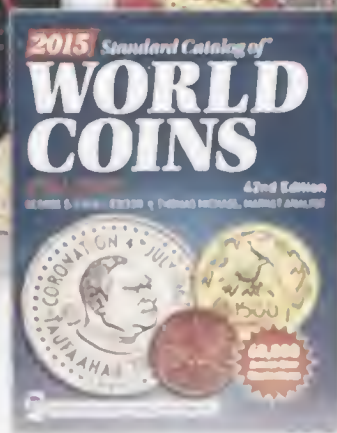
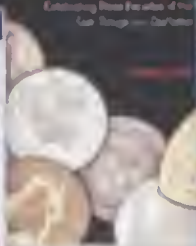


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COIN  
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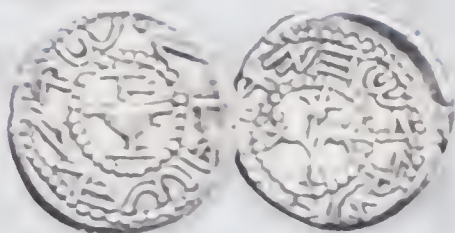
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